

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**OF**  
**NEVADA**

**BYLAWS**

**Amended at the Democratic State Convention  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
May 16, 1998**

## **Article I      Status and Function**

**Section 1.**     The State Central Committee shall be the governing body of the Democratic Party of Nevada when the State Convention is in adjournment. However, such actions by the State Central Committee shall be in accord with the expressed policies of the State Convention, and the provisions of the Charter, and Delegate Selection Rules of the Democratic Party of Nevada.

**Section 2.**     The principal duties and powers of the State Central Committee include the following:

- a.)     issue the call to the State and County convention;
- b.)     develop, publish and distribute a complete set of written party rules;
- c.)     formulate and disseminate statements of party policy;
- d.)     provide for the election of officers and filling of vacancies;
- e.)     conduct regular meetings in accordance with other sections of these Bylaws;
- f.)     adopt and publish a Code of Fair Campaign Practices, which shall be observed by all candidates campaigning as Democrats;
- g.)     adopt such resolutions and memorials as it may deem to be required to implement the platform of the State Convention;
- h.)     assess and collect a minimum fee of ten (10) percent of monies collected under the auspices of the Democratic Party of Nevada; and
- i.)     do any and all other things reasonably incidental to the performance and exercise of the duties imposed and powers conferred by the State Convention in promotion of the principles and programs of the Democratic Party of Nevada.

## **Article II     Membership**

**Section 1.**     The State Central Committee shall consist of Members as provided in Article III of the Charter of the Democratic Party of Nevada.

- a.)     Each county will be entitled to elect one member to the State Central Committee for every one thousand (1,000) Democrats registered to vote as of January 1 of the convention year. There shall be at least one (1) member from each county.
- b.)     Any member no longer residing in the county from which he or she is elected shall no longer be eligible to be a member representing that county.
- c.)     Challenges to any member of the Nevada State Central Committee elected at a State Convention shall be heard and adjudicated by the State Central Committee at its first meeting after adjournment of the State Convention. Challenges to any member of the Committee elected at subsequent meetings of the Committee shall

be heard and adjudicated in accordance with Article V of these Bylaws.

- Section 2.** The newly elected State Chair shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the State Central Committee, a Parliamentarian, a Secretary, a Sergeant-at-Arms, a General Counsel and other committees as needed. Those appointed need not necessarily be members of the Central Committee.

**Article III Voting and Quorum**

- Section 1.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in these Bylaws, a quorum of the State Central Committee shall be equal to thirty (30) percent of the entire membership present in person or by proxy.

- Section 2.** Proxy voting shall be permitted only when the holder of the proxy is from the county of the member executing the proxy. No member shall vote more than two (2) proxies and no non-member shall vote more than one (1) proxy. Proxies shall be in written form and signed by the Committee member or designee, granting the proxy.

- Section 3.** Proxy voting shall not be permitted in the following cases:
- a.) Amendments to, or revisions of the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Nevada; and
  - b.) Any other matter where the use of proxies is prohibited by the National Charter, the State Charter, the National Party Rules, or the Delegate Selection Rules

- Section 4.** Contested votes shall be taken by secret ballot, unless the State Central Committee votes to suspend such rules for any particular vote or votes to be taken by a majority vote.

**Article IV Terms of Office**

- Section 1.** Members of the State Central Committee are elected for a term of two (2) years at the State Convention.

- Section 2.** Members-elect take office at the State Convention and serve until adjournment of the next succeeding State Convention, or until their successors are elected and confirmed.

- Section 3.** Beginning in 1999, the election of officers of the State Central Committee shall be held in odd-numbered years, at a time and date set by the State Central Committee.

- Section 4.** State officers-elect take office and assume their duties and responsibilities immediately following their election, and serve for a two-year (2) term

## **Article V      Removal of State Officers**

**Section 1.** State officers may be removed from office for any of the following reasons, with cause for removal not limited to these reasons:

- a) failure to call meetings prescribed by the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Nevada;
- b) failure to file Federal Election Commission Reports in a timely and appropriate manner,
- c) failure to carry out defined duties;
- d) failure to establish a State Finance Council;
- e) failure to appoint required standing, special and joint committees for the Democratic Party of Nevada;
- f) endorsing or demonstrating official aid or support of one Democratic candidate over another in a primary election, or aiding or supporting any political candidates of an opposing party; and
- g) removal from office for gross negligence or malfeasance shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Central Committee.

**Section 2.** Prior to removal, said member shall be notified by certified letter, a copy of which shall be sent to the Chair of the county in which said member resides, that his or her membership will be terminated and that this vacancy shall be filled at the next regular meeting. At this meeting, said member will be given the opportunity to appear and show good and sufficient cause why his or her membership should not be terminated.

**Section 3.** Removal for cause shall include, but is not limited to a) change in party affiliation, and b) active support of opposition party candidates, or malfeasance. Removal for cause shall be by two-thirds (2/3) vote of members voting, either present or by proxy, at a lawful meeting of the State Central Committee that has been properly noticed for this purpose.

## **Article VI      Vacancies**

**Section 1.** Vacancies may occur in the State Central Committee from resignation, death, non-attendance or removal for cause.

**Section 2.** Resignation shall become effective immediately upon witnessed oral or written notice given to the Chair of the Democratic Party of Nevada.

**Section 3.** Non-attendance: Any member not attending two (2) consecutive meetings shall be considered to have vacated his or her membership, unless prior notification of legitimate non-attendance is made and proxy approval is arranged. In the event that a regular meeting is scheduled to be held in the North or the South, as opposed to the usual meeting location of Tonopah, hardship shall constitute an automatic legal absence for any State Central

Committee member living in the opposite end of the state from which the meeting is being held.

**Section 4.** Method of filling vacancies: All vacancies shall be filled at the next regular meeting of the State Central Committee:

- a) It shall be the responsibility of the County Chair to notify the State Chair of any vacancy that comes to his or her attention as soon as possible, and it shall be the duty of the State Chair to notify the County Chair of any vacancy as far in advance as possible, so that recommendation for these positions may be made by the general membership at the next meeting of the County Central Committee in which the vacancy has occurred.
- b) The County Chair shall place names in nomination at the next meeting of the State Central Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor at said State Central Committee meeting, but vacancies must be filled by Democrats from the county in which the vacancies occur.

**Section 5.** Vacancies to be filled in the elected offices of the State Central Committee shall be filled by a majority vote of the State Central Committee at the next meeting following the occurrence of the vacancy, provided that the notice of such meeting shall have included an announcement of the vacancy and election.

**Section 6.** Failure of any member of the Democratic State Central Committee to declare affirmatively his or her support for the Democratic Presidential or Vice Presidential nominees may constitute good and sufficient cause for removal from the State Central Committee.

## **Article VII    Meetings**

**Section 1.** The newly elected Chair of the Democratic Party of Nevada shall issue a call and conduct the first meeting of the newly designated State Central Committee within 90 days of adjournment of the State Convention; this meeting may take place at the convention site.

**Section 2.** State Central Committee members shall be notified, in writing, at least 15 days prior to any and all State Central Committee meetings, except for the first meeting which may take place at the State Convention site. Such notification shall include an agenda.

**Section 3.** The State Central Committee shall meet at least once each quarter. Any and all State Central Committee meetings shall be held in Tonopah (except for the first meeting which may be held at the State Convention site) unless the State Central Committee in session votes to hold a particular meeting elsewhere.

**Section 4.** Special meetings of the State Central Committee may be called by the State Chair, or by a majority of the members of the Executive Board; or by request of 15 percent (in writing) of the State Central Committee membership. Notices of special meetings are subject to the same location, written notice, time and agenda requirements as regular meetings.

**Section 5.** For the purpose of conducting State Central Committee business, 30 percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

**Article VIII State Officers Duties and Responsibilities**

**Section 1.** The State Chair is the chief executive officer and shall direct the affairs of the State Central Committee and the Democratic Party of Nevada; shall preside at all meetings of the Central Committee and the Executive Committee; shall exercise and discharge such other duties as are conferred upon him/her by law and by the Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Nevada, or by the State Central Committee; and shall serve on the Democratic National Committee.

**Section 2.** The National Committeeman and National Committeewoman shall be the official representative of the Democratic Party of Nevada on the Democratic National Committee (DNC); shall serve on the Executive Board of the State Committee; and shall carry out their duties in accordance with the State Charter and Bylaws, the State Central Committee, and the DNC, including fundraising and dissemination of information from the DNC meetings.

**Section 3.** The State First Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of his/her duties. The First Vice Chair shall be the first in line of succession to the Chair in the event of a vacancy. The First Vice Chair shall serve on the Democratic National Committee.

**Section 4.** The Second Vice Chair shall preside in the absence of both the State Chair and First Vice Chair. The Second Vice Chair is second in line of succession in the event of a vacancy.

**Section 5.** The Nevada State Democratic Party Secretary, under the direction of the State Chair, shall maintain the official roster of the members of the Central Committee, shall record and maintain minutes of all meetings and shall carry out such other duties as are delegated by the State Chair.

**Section 6.** The State Treasurer shall be custodian of all monies of the Central Committee, shall disburse these monies only under the direction of the State Chair and/or the Executive Committee or the Central Committee. The State Treasurer shall maintain an accounting of all monies received and disbursed which shall be at all times accessible to the State Chair, the

Executive Committee, and the State Central Committee. At each meeting of the Central Committee and Executive Committee, the State Treasurer shall present a financial statement for review. At the end of his or her term of office, the State Treasurer shall turn over to his or her successor, within 10 working days, all monies, books, and records of the Central Committee remaining in his or her possession. The signatures of the State Chair and the State Treasurer shall be required on all checks. An audit shall be conducted by an independent accounting firm, just prior to the State Democratic Convention, at the expense of the State Central Committee.

**Section 7.** The Parliamentarian shall advise the State Chair on matters of parliamentary law and procedure at all meetings of the State Central Committee and Executive Committee.

**Section 8.** The General Counsel, who shall be an attorney at law admitted to practice in the State of Nevada, shall be the legal advisor to the State Central Committee.

**Section 9.** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall assist the Chair in maintaining order at Central Committee meetings.

**Article IX** **Parliamentary Authority**

*Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*, shall be the State Central Committee's authority for parliamentary law and procedure at all meetings except provisions in conflict with the Democratic Party Charter, or these Bylaws.

**Article X** **Statement of Policy**

The State Chair may issue statements representing the policy of the Nevada State Central Committee and the Democratic Party of Nevada, as long as these statements are not in conflict with the already stated position(s) of the Democratic Party. No Committee member or officer of any Committee shall issue statements purporting to represent the policy of the Nevada State Democratic Central Committee without the approval of the State Chair or by direction or vote of the Nevada State Central Committee.

**Article XI** **Adoption and Amendment of Bylaws**

**Section 1.** These Bylaws shall be considered in effect when adopted by a majority of the State Convention.

**Section 2.** These Bylaws may be amended, revised, or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of those present and voting at a meeting of the State Central Committee, provided that 30 days written notice of any proposed Bylaw or amendment has been given to all members of the State Central Committee in accordance with the Democratic State Charter, Article XII, Section 2.

Adopted 1974

Revised 1976

Amended May 6, 1978

Amended May 4, 1980

Amended November 15, 1980

Amended February 28, 1981

Amended October 4, 1981

Amended September 25, 1982

Amended September 1994

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